

## **Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging Minutes**

Regular Meeting

July 8, 2021 - 01:00 PM

Online meeting

**Members :** Florence Castner, Janet Court, Helene Gauthier, Angelique Kingsbury, Ernie Lewis, Melinda Ludwiczak, Hazel Tanner, Thomas Weist, Paulette Will, and Beth Winnick (Quorum - 6)

**Staff :** Christina Kendrick

### **Call To Order**

1. Roll Call. Present were members Tanner, Weist, Ludwiczak, Court, Winnick, Kingsbury

Staff present, Kendrick, Herbst, Velez-Alvarado

2. Adoption of the agenda. Agenda adopted.
3. Acceptance of minutes. Minutes and notes accepted.

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### **Discussion**

4. Update on budget proposal - senior service dollars moving from health to NCR.

Paulette had asked for an update on Minneapolis budgeting, including federal recovery dollars coming. The Mayor's office and Jeremy Schroeder's office proposed budgeting \$250000 for healthy aging. Schroeder moved to shift money to Christina's department, which contains cultural and neighborhoods teams and an office of immigrant and refugee affairs. Member Winnick asked, is there a process for rfp? Member Tanner asked, why did money go from Health to NCR? Christina explained that the money was allocated to NCR first and some point shifted to Health for unknown reasons. Because this money is to support ongoing and expanding services to help senior population, it was returned to NCR which administers those programs. Member Ludwiczak asked, is this one-time money? Yes. Member Winnick asked about a timeline? Christina said she will provide one but it seems to be a moving target. She will update. Member Winnick asked, do we have a number of how many seniors are in need in Minneapolis? Christina said, not really, and we need to have a definition of "senior". Wilder may have a number, or the U. or the State. Member Winnick asked where to apply for grant to get free tablets to needy elders. Member Tanner asked, do we know the number of seniors in each ward? Christina said she starts with age 50 (AARP number) for planning purposes. 65 is medicare

number. This may be a good project for Urban Scholars. ARPA America rescue plan act \$251 million to MPLS in total.

5. In person meetings starting August – Westminster. {Note: although we discussed an in-person meeting for August and selected a location, city policy now requires us, understandably, to continue to meet online.]

Member Kingsbury offered meeting space at Westminster Church downtown at 12<sup>th</sup> and Nicolet to Marquette. There is underground parking and a lovely meeting space. They can arrange for Teams attendance for those not able to come. There is a \$5 parking fee but Christina thinks she could arrange for the City to reimburse or cover parking expense. There is adequate space to socially distance. Some members were leery about meeting in person. Member asked about bus routes. Member Winnick said she would love to meet in person but has another matter immediately adjacent to this meeting could attend, most likely, electronically but not in person. Hybrids create a question with regard to open meeting. People attending virtually must disclose their location with three exceptions. The city can extend the public health emergency if the governor doesn't. Christina will check with those not present. The discussion suggested that public transit is with some people's comfort zones but not within everyone's.

The committee voted to meet next month at Westminster.

6. Timeline for minutes and agenda to Christina.

Christina needs agenda and minutes a week ahead of time.

7. Update on external organizations funding for home repairs .

Member Tanner said she is running into dead ends on this inquiry. She met with a city council aide but this seems to have gone nowhere, She left a message with County Board member Conley's office. She knows of tradesmen who would like to get grants to provide help. Summit, Dunwoody may help. Roosevelt used to have a carpentry program. She says there is still a need for a home repair navigator. Christina said she will check with Lisa Smeestad (phon.) for an update next month.

Christina reported that the city is putting together a hoarding task force. Christina says the City does still have navigators but doesn't know their purview. Some may dealing with hoarding and condemned houses. Member Winnick related that technology can help with hoarding. You take a pic of the thing you don't really want but you can't give up so you can keep the memories it evokes. Member Tanner asked how existence of navigators is publicized. Christina said that at this point they only respond to inspections/zoning citation cases. Habitat Brush with Kindness/Age Well at home has a wellness assessment program was discussed.

### **Unfinished Business**

8. Discussion to continue about committee letters of recommendations to external organizations such as Senior Linkage Line

Last meeting we discussed Senior Linkage line and MNhealth.info - In general, we only hear about long waits and little service. The committee discussed whether contacting or sending advice to these state-managed organizations is beyond our purview?

We discussed the possibility of inviting their representatives to talk to us. Member Winnick offered to check with Senior Linkage line to ask them how to advise Mpls Seniors to use their services and then invite a representative to come meet. Quarterly reports mentioned which would provide data on Minneapolis seniors served. Member Court said the Senior Linkage line works well for Native Americans, especially on reservations. Member Ludwiczak recommended inviting Dawn Simonson, director and also chair of board and offered to with check with her.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 2:30

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**Next Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging meeting:** Aug 12, 2021

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